

## “STATE” HOT ISSUE

### REDEVELOPMENT AT ALLIED PAPER/PORTAGE CREEK/KALAMAZOO RIVER SUPERFUND SITE, MICHIGAN

#### KEY MESSAGES:

- *EPA and MDEQ continue to support and encourage redevelopment of Superfund sites where appropriate.*
- *Redevelopment is incorporated into the selected remedy for operable unit 7, Plainwell Mill, located in Plainwell, MI. Portions of the property have already been redeveloped and other portions of the property will be redeveloped following completion of the cleanup work.*
- *EPA and MDEQ successfully collaborated with the local community to incorporate reuse and long-term stewardship into the selected remedy for operable unit 1, Allied Landfill, located in Kalamazoo, MI. That remedy is currently undergoing remedial design.*

#### BACKGROUND:

EPA listed the site on the National Priorities List in August 1990. The site consists of four landfills (including Allied Landfill), five former paper mill properties (including Plainwell Mill), roughly 77 miles of the Kalamazoo River from Morrow Lake Dam to Lake Michigan, and a three-mile stretch of Portage Creek, all contaminated with PCBs. The entire site spans Calhoun, Kalamazoo, and Allegan Counties in Michigan. The PCB contamination at the site primarily came from former paper mills that recycled carbonless copy paper and discharged contaminated wastewater to the Kalamazoo River. Other waste residuals were placed in on-site lagoons or disposal areas that later became the four landfill OUs. The primary risks at the site are associated with human consumption of PCB-contaminated fish. Fish consumption advisories exist along the entire river.

EPA selected the remedy for Allied Landfill in September 2016 after working collaboratively with the local community to develop a cleanup alternative that allows for reuse of the property. The selected remedy includes consolidation and capping of the waste to reduce the landfill footprint from 59 acres to 27 acres. The City of Kalamazoo is expected to provide long-term stewardship and to reuse the property. The majority of the property is expected to be available for commercial redevelopment and the capped area is expected to be available for light recreational use.

EPA selected the remedy for Plainwell Mill in September 2015, and continues working with the City of Plainwell regarding ongoing development of the property. The selected remedy includes excavation and off-site disposal of contaminated soil to meet cleanup standards that will allow for residential and/or commercial redevelopment in accordance with the city's redevelopment plan for the property. EPA approved the final remedial design in April 2018 and the cleanup work is expected to begin later in 2018.

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

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